

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Oklahoma Field Office
201 Stephenson Pkwy, Ste 1200
Norman, OK 73072

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet

**Chigley Off-Range Pasture, Murray County, OK
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-0040-2017-039-DNA**

BLM Office: Oklahoma Field Office. **Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** DOI-BLM-NM-0040-2017-039-DNA

Proposed Action Title/Type: Place wild horses on private land to provide long term care and maintenance of excess animals removed from herd management areas in the western U.S.

Location of Proposed Action: One mile north of the town of Davis in Murray County, OK, approximately 75 miles south of Oklahoma City, OK.

Applicant (if any): Burgher Haggard, LLC.

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The BLM is proposing to enter into a contract with a private landowner for the care and maintenance of up to 500 excess wild horses on approximately 3,662 acres in Oklahoma. Based on available data, the BLM has determined the ranch could potentially support up to 608 horses, therefore, the proposed action would be to convert the existing cattle operation into a wild horse off-range pasture by placing up to 608 horses on the ranch. Wild horses would be maintained in non-reproductive herds year round.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

The placement of excess wild horses into private grasslands is not subject to the BLM land use planning regulations as land-use plans are specific to public rangelands. Removal of wild horses from public rangelands and placement into a long-term facility is consistent with the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (WFRHBA).

C. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document(s) and Other Related Documents

Environmental Analysis, FONSI, and Decision Record for the Jameson Ranch Wild Horse and Burro Off-Range Pasture (DOI-BLM-NM-040-2015-030). Date Approved: 6/08/2015

Biological Assessment for Jameson Family Ranch Signed: 3/20/2015

Programmatic Biological Opinion on the American Burying Beetle for the Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse Long-Term Holding Facility Program, Consultation number FWS/R2/OKES/21440-2009-F-0199 Signed: 4/01/2010

Programmatic Biological Assessment for Wild Horse Long-Term Holding Facility Program Signed: 4/14/2009

Cultural Report: CRR Report NM-040-2017-063 addresses the Section 106 requirement for this project, including a Class I Literature Search, results of a reconnaissance trip to the ranch, and a discussion of need for any cultural resource survey and methodology with any future proposed ground disturbances or

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areas of horse concentration. No cultural resources were identified during the reconnaissance trip. The BLM, in consultation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office, determined that the project would have No Effect on Historic Properties. The Chickasaw Nation, the Osage Nation, and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma were notified of and consulted about the proposed project.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The proposed action for the Chigley Off-Range Pasture is to provide for the care and maintenance of up to 608 wild horses on 3,662 ac. of private land. The existing NEPA document (Jameson Ranch Wild Horse and Burro Off-range Pasture) analyzed the same action for up to 200 wild horses on 956 ac. of private land.

The Chigley facility is adjacent to and bordering the western edge of the Jameson facility. Terrain, soils, vegetation, wildlife, and riparian areas are similar in both project areas. Oil and gas production is present and locations are fenced in both facilities.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes. There would not be a change in the range of alternative from the Jameson Ranch Off-range Pasture to the proposed project. The same issues and concerns were raised for the proposed Chigley Off-Range Pasture as for the Jameson Ranch Wild Horse and Burro Off-range Pasture.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The EA for the Jameson facility adequately analyzed impacts to all resources including a review of impacts to soils, vegetation, water resources, wetland and riparian areas, heritage resources, wildlife, wild horse and burro management, and mineral resources.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts for the proposed project are not substantially changed from the Jameson Ranch analysis. Stocking rates and utilization calculated for the Chigley Ranch are below the threshold analyzed in the Jameson Ranch EA. The Jameson Ranch EA calculated utilization based on a 65% utilization factor. Through adaptive management, the BLM has decided that 40% utilization would be more appropriate. Table 1 below compares the stocking rates and utilization for each ranch based on 40% utilization factor.

Table 1. Stocking rate and utilization of forage for the proposed project compared to the Jameson Ranch Off-range Pasture.

	Proposed Action for Chigley Off-range Pasture (608 horses)	Jameson Ranch Off-range Pasture
Stocking Rate (based on animal unit equivalent; AUE)	5.48 ac. available per animal unit year (AUY)	4.3 ac. available per AUY
Utilization	40% of the available forage would be utilized	47% of available forage being utilized

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Public involvement and interagency review for the Jameson Off-range Pasture has been determined to be adequate for the proposed project.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
George Thomas	Wildlife Biologist	BLM, Oklahoma Field Office
Erin Knolles	Archeologist	BLM, Oklahoma Field Office
Scott Fluor	Wild Horse Specialist	BLM, Lander Field Office
Beatrice Wade	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	BLM, National Wild Horse and Burro Division

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/April Crawley/ 8/16/2017

April Crawley, Natural Resource Specialist, Project Lead Date

/Carolyn Russell/ 8/16/2017

Carolyn Russell, AFM Resources Date

/Steve Brockman, Acting Field Manager/ 8/16/2017

For: Robert Pawelek, Field Manager, Oklahoma Field Office Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.